

# SABR Scouts Newsletter

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## WELCOME, JIM SANDOVAL

In April, a change was made at the request of the chairman of the scouts' committee, Yours Truly (Bill Clark), that he be replaced.

The reason was simple -- technology (or lack of it). For the past 18 months or so, I had become very aware that I was no longer in touch with most of the SABR family and the scouts' committee in particular.

The reason was simple. I still do not have a computer and really no desire to own one. I work as a newspaper columnist with the manual Smith-Corona which is typing this final newsletter from my desk and what I type gets to the paper twice a week. The paper occasionally gets e-mails to the editor which are handed to me a couple of times a month. I really answer none of them, because the writers never leave an address other than the e-mail address. That works with critics, but it doesn't work with a scouts' committee.

I really have no desire to be online. I write columns dealing with local history and do so by using the huge microfiche files in our state historical society library - which is the largest newspaper library in the United States.

I have been accepted as a dinosaur by my managing editor and life goes on for both of us. In fact, I just wrote a very popular column recently about what it is like to be a dinosaur in the 21st Century.

None of that has been acceptable with the scouts' committee members and for most of the other committee chairmen in SABR - so the time to change is at hand.

His data:

144 Smith Vasser Rd.

Harvest, AL 35749

Thus we welcome Jim Sandoval.

Ph: 256-721-7643; e-mail: casabdnab@aol.com

He will join with Rod Nelson as the co-chairman of the committee and will meet all of you who attend the annual SABR Convention in August in Toronto.

Ol' Clark had planned to be there to hand over the reins to Jim, but I'll pass. I'll be involved in a major amateur boxing tournament that weekend and will be needed much more here than in Toronto. Jim and Rod will handle things just fine.

## ROLAND HEMOND AWARD

One of the joys of being chairman these past few years has been the relationships with Roland Hemond and in naming a SABR award for him - which is given annually to the major league executive that personifies what Roland has meant to scouting and to baseball research through the years. I'll miss that annual selection process.

Our lineup in the past:

2001 - Roland, himself.

2002 - Robert Howsam

2003 - Pat Gillick

2004 - Paul Snyder

And in 2005 - the recipient will be Paul Beeston. Congratulations to Paul - and to Roland.

SABR owes a world of thanks to Roland for what he has done regarding research of the scouting world. Scouts owe him a world of thanks because he has always been one of a small handful of executives who truly have cared about the scouts. He has worn two hats with class. Live to be 100, Roland. The game - and SABR - need you.

#### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

This award is chosen by the scouts' committee and presented annually at our committee meeting. Last year's winner was your new co-chairman. He and Rod will announce the 2005 recipient at the convention.

#### LEAVING THREE ONGOING PROJECTS

When I became committee chair, we had one project - whom signed whom. It had been started under former chair, Jim Krueze. Rod Nelson took it on and has expanded it to include an unbelievable amount of data on every one of the 16,000-plus players through time. Rod will continue to handle that project.

Jim Sandoval tackled the task of matching scouts with both the calendar and the various clubs for which they have worked. He's hard at what has become quite a project.

Finally, the project of pulling together some 50 biographies of pre-draft scouts was to be a goal for publication in 2006 or 2007. It was this project that Clark would oversee. It became apparent quickly that his lack of communication skills in today's world would defeat the project.

SABR wants to see this project reach fruition. As the retiring co-chair, I charge Jim and Rod to forge ahead and bring the project to a successful conclusion - and then do a second collection of bios of scouts since the draft came about in 1965.

#### IN CLOSING...

Rod and Jim have a long e-mail address book that I don't reach. I have a few snail mail addresses that their e-mail fails to find. This letter is to all.

Finish the three projects!!! Support your leadership...and support SABR. I'll still be a committee member and a contributor to SABR in the future - but, in the meantime, I'll enjoy my role as one of the last remaining dinosaurs in the 21st Century.

It was a good run, boys and girls. Keep the torch burning. And, if you want to stay up with Clark's column - it runs each Monday and Friday in the Columbia Tribune. Go to [www.columbiatribune.com](http://www.columbiatribune.com). But beware - sometimes the bullshit gets pretty deep.